

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN TO CREATE A  
3 TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OFFICE OF WOMEN'S  
4 HEALTH FOR THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO.

5  
6 WHEREAS, the national state-by-state report card on  
7 women's health for 2004, which examines and grades  
8 thirty-four status indicators of women's health based on  
9 overall benchmarks drawn from the health objectives set for  
10 the nation by the United States department of health and  
11 human services' healthy people 2010 agenda, has graded New  
12 Mexico "failing" or "unsatisfactory" in nineteen of the  
13 thirty-four indicators; and

14 WHEREAS, the status indicators measured are in the  
15 following four categories: women's access to health care  
16 services; addressing wellness and prevention; key health  
17 conditions, including key causes of death, chronic health  
18 conditions, reproductive health, mental health, and violence  
19 against women; and living in a healthy community; and

20 WHEREAS, New Mexico received failing or unsatisfactory  
21 grades in all four of the status indicator categories; and

22 WHEREAS, the same report card evaluates the performance  
23 of state governments in promoting sixty-seven policy  
24 indicators on women's health, including statutes,  
25 regulations, policies and programs that address the problems

1 identified by the four categories of health status  
2 indicators, and has rated New Mexico as "meets policy" in  
3 only twenty-eight of the sixty-seven indicators; and

4 WHEREAS, a total of nineteen states currently have  
5 offices of women's health, including the neighboring states  
6 of Texas, Arizona and Colorado; and

7 WHEREAS, state offices of women's health can serve many  
8 different functions, including developing agendas on women's  
9 health issues; providing policy guidance to the governor,  
10 state legislature and department of health; serving as a  
11 clearinghouse and resource for information on women's health  
12 for the public; and funding and overseeing direct health care  
13 services benefiting women; and

14 WHEREAS, multiple governmental, nongovernmental and  
15 grassroots organizations in the state are engaged in the  
16 provision and advocacy of services for women and endeavor to  
17 increase coordination of their activities and reduce  
18 duplication of effort; and

19 WHEREAS, women's health services in Santa Fe has been  
20 designated and funded since 2001 by the federal department of  
21 health and human services office of women's health as a  
22 community center of excellence in women's health, one of only  
23 fourteen in the nation; and

24 WHEREAS, the mission of a community center of excellence  
25 in women's health is to unite promising approaches in women's

1 health through the integration of:

2 A. comprehensive, gender-specific health service  
3 delivery;

4 B. training for lay and professional health  
5 providers;

6 C. community-based research;

7 D. public education and outreach;

8 E. leadership development for women as health care  
9 consumers and providers; and

10 F. technical assistance to ensure the replication  
11 of promising models and strategies at the community level and  
12 to improve health outcomes for underserved women;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
14 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the commission on the status of  
15 women be requested to create a task force to study the  
16 establishment of an office of women's health for New Mexico;  
17 and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force review the  
19 methods of developing women's health policy and service  
20 delivery in an effective and comprehensive fashion to promote  
21 health and reduce the burden of preventable disease and  
22 injury among the women and girls of New Mexico, including the  
23 following focus areas:

24 A. development of a comprehensive framework for  
25 women's health policy and programs that reflects the current

1 research on the health status of women in New Mexico and is  
2 representative of the needs of women and girls throughout the  
3 state;

4 B. enhancement of policy and resource development  
5 by facilitating communication among various state departments  
6 and programs, local health departments and community  
7 organizations, and by providing technical assistance to  
8 government agencies and the legislature;

9 C. support and coordination of the activities of  
10 the women's health council that provides policy  
11 recommendations to the governor and the secretary of health  
12 on women's health issues;

13 D. facilitation of women's health programs within  
14 New Mexico in order to identify duplication or gaps in  
15 services and to improve coordination of services to create a  
16 seamless delivery system based on key health concerns of  
17 women;

18 E. conveying information on women's health  
19 resources and organizations to policymakers and the general  
20 public; and

21 F. providing administrative support for a New  
22 Mexico women's health survey for the purpose of collecting,  
23 analyzing and disseminating information to guide  
24 decision-making about women's health by public health  
25 professionals and policymakers; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be made up of  
2 representatives of the commission on the status of women; the  
3 department of health; the New Mexico health policy  
4 commission; the children, youth and families department; the  
5 human services department; the Indian affairs department; the  
6 veterans' services department; other agencies and commissions  
7 within New Mexico government, as appropriate; women's health  
8 services, inc.; women's health and human services advocacy  
9 groups; and other appropriate advocacy groups; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its  
11 findings to the legislative health and human services  
12 committee by October 2005; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
14 transmitted to the governor and the secretaries and directors  
15 of the following: the commission on the status of women; the  
16 department of health; the New Mexico health policy  
17 commission; the children, youth and families department; the  
18 human services department; the Indian affairs department; the  
19 veterans' services department; the aging and long-term  
20 services department; the corrections department; the general  
21 services department; and other agencies and commissions  
22 within New Mexico government, as appropriate. \_\_\_\_\_

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